

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 04BUCHAREST3442, ROMANIA'S NEW PRESIDENT: FORMER SAILER PILOTS SHIP OF STATE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#04BUCHAREST3442**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">04BUCHAREST3442</a>	<a href="#">2004-12-15 13:46</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Bucharest</a>
Appears in these articles: <a href="http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/03/ambasada-sua-basescu-a-criticat-contractul-bechtel-n-campania-din-2004-dar-i-a-promis-lui-bush-dupa-vizita-din-martie-2005-ca-e-pro-bechtel/">http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/03/ambasada-sua-basescu-a-criticat-contractul-bechtel-n-campania-din-2004-dar-i-a-promis-lui-bush-dupa-vizita-din-martie-2005-ca-e-pro-bechtel/</a>				

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BUCHAREST 003442

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/NCE - WILLIAM SILKWORTH  
STATE ALSO FOR INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2014  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [SOCI](#) [RO](#)  
SUBJECT: ROMANIA'S NEW PRESIDENT: FORMER SAILER PILOTS SHIP OF STATE

REF: A. A) BUCHAREST 3421

[1](#)B. B) BUCHAREST 3415 C. C) BUCHAREST 3318 D. D) BUCHAREST 3092 E. E) BUCHAREST 2956 F. F) BUCHAREST 2748 G. G) BUCHAREST 2226 H. H) BUCHAREST

Classified By: POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF ROBERT GILCHRIST FOR REASONS 1.4 B AND D

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. Romania's President-elect, National Liberal Party-Democratic Party (PNL-PD) alliance co-leader Traian Basescu, is a skilled politician. The Happy Warrior

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[1](#)2. (C) Bucharest's Mayor and President-elect Traian Basescu, the surprise winner in the December 12 runoff presidential election, is little known. From Sailor to Alliance Leader

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[1](#)3. (C) Basescu was thrust into the national spotlight in October 2004 following the surprise withdrawal from the presidential race of PNL-PD candidate

[1](#)4. (C) Basescu was elected PD president in 2001 after an intense and sometimes acrimonious struggle for control of the party, leading to the collapse of the Promoting the Transatlantic Alliance

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[1](#)5. (C) Basescu publicly and privately advocates a strong strategic alliance with the United States. During the final televised presidential debate

[1](#)6. (C) Basescu, a fluent English speaker, has long been a candid and reliable interlocutor with the Embassy. Indeed, one of his two daughters is named Rolling Up the Shirt Sleeves

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[1](#)7. (C) Even Basescu's fiercest opponents acknowledge that he is a brilliant debater. He punctuates his blunt speaking style with wry humor and

[1](#)8. (C) Basescu is famed for his approachable style. As one Romanian remarked to Poloff, he is not intimidating and "anyone can talk to him." Foot in Mouth Disease

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[1](#)9. (C) Nonetheless, Basescu's informal demeanor and shoot from the hip style - which can blend irony and pathos in a few sentences - has occasioned Sharing the Reins of Power?

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[1](#)10. (C) Some former colleagues of Basescu bitterly complain that his management style is non-consultative and frequently disregards the concerns of the public. Attacking Corruption

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[1](#)11. (C) During the presidential campaign, Basescu identified eliminating rampant corruption as a national security priority. His tough talking style

[1](#)12. (C) Basescu himself, however, remains dogged by a National Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (PNA) investigation launched in the summer of 2004. Many Romanians saw the case simply as an attempt by the PSD to tar Basescu with corruption charges. He did not appear to have financially benefited from Economic Reform

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[1](#)13. (C) Since the mid-1990's, Basescu has been a stalwart advocate for economic reform, including transparent privatization of state-run enterprises.

[1](#)14. (U) Amembassy Bucharest, reporting telegrams are available on the Bucharest SIPRNET Website: [www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/bucharest](http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/bucharest)

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